



Stallion Times

Carbon Valley Secondary Academy's Online Newsletter

November 2009

What Defines a Good Citizen: The Importance of Community Service Projects

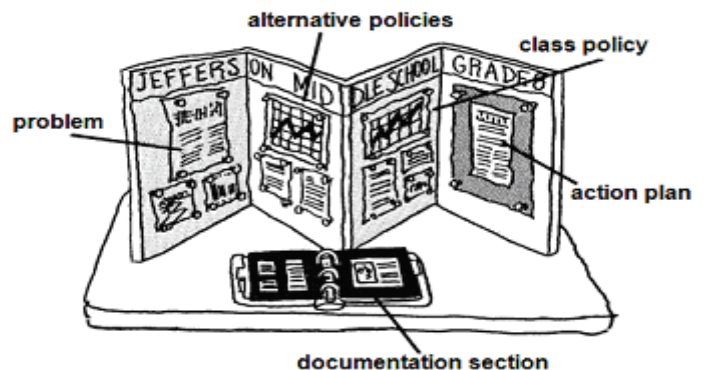
by Mr. Owen Cegielski, CVSA History Teacher

The famed Greek philosopher Aristotle once stated "It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen." What defines a "good citizen?" The former United Nations Secretary-General argued "No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline." Accordingly, I implemented the program "Project Citizenship" at CVSA to teach our 9th grade Civics students the importance of being responsible community members.

Project Citizenship requires students to volunteer for approximately four hours to help others in the community. As a class project, students work together in teams to identify and study a problem in their community, such as homelessness. They propose a solution in the form of a written public policy recommendation and then develop an action plan. Implementation of their action plans requires students to call and arrange volunteer hours at local nursing homes, homeless shelters, or other charitable organizations. Last year, my 9th grade students volunteered at the Broomfield Nursing Home, where we visited with Alzheimer's patients, as well as volunteered for the Salvation Army's holiday bell-ringing fundraiser drive. The students reported that these experiences proved to be "eye-opening" and "rewarding."

This year's 9th grade class will need to create action plans by mid-November and then carry out their community service projects during the first week of December. Once completed, students will display their work in a portfolio or PowerPoint show to include photos or videos of themselves carrying out the plan! They will also write conclusions about what was learned and accomplished. (See the diagram at right of a sample group portfolio.)

Project Citizenship will teach the 9th graders life-long lessons about teamwork, responsibility, and good citizenship. Stay tuned for more information about where our class decides to volunteer this year!



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From Principal Trautwein's Desk

Who has the answers? As principal, I am often asked by parents for help. They are seeking that piece of advice that will solve the problems they are having with their child at school. Unfortunately, I have not been taught any miracle cures and was not gifted with any great knowledge, but I have been fortunate enough to see and work with some great parents over the years. It all boils down to this: be patient, communicate, and be persistent.

Growing up is hard work for the kids AND for the parents. Parents sometimes are in a hurry to let their children start making their own decisions, even some very important ones like what they are going to do and with whom, how they spend their money, or choosing a school. We have to remember that even though they are beginning to mature, they do not have the experience to make mature decisions.

In Wednesday's snow storm, the one talked about by every kid and parent, my 13 year old daughter came upstairs, ready for school wearing her flat, open-toed shoes. They look great, she likes them, but it was the wrong choice for snow. She was then redirected to her boots. So how can we trust that our kids can make good decisions when they can't get dressed for a snowy day?

The answer is guidance. As parents, we need to lead our children down the right paths as they begin making their own decisions. We can do this by helping them discuss the possible outcomes and reminding them of what their morals are and what their decisions say about them and us as parents. Ultimately, any decision a child under the age of 18 makes is a decision they make with your consent. Never forget that we are the parents and we have final say.

Collectively, parents have all the answers, we just need the opportunity to share them with each other. I encourage you to talk with your friends and share your troubles and triumphs. Together we can make our children's lives better.

Every day I am impressed with the students I work with at CVSA. They show the level of care and concern that their parents give them in every action that they do. Each student is a work in progress and I know that eventually they will become the outstanding adults we envision them to be. Thank you for being great parents and keep up the good work.

Paul W. Trautwein – Principal
Carbon Valley Secondary Academy

Slow Down for School Zones

At CVSA and CVA, we do not have school zones directly in front of our schools but please slow down as you approach any school. Students are in the area and sometimes can act unpredictably. A driver who is driving cautiously can more easily react to a potential accident.

As you drive past all schools, please slow down to the 20 mph school zone speed. If the crossing guard is out, please wait until the crossing guard clears the intersection before continuing.

At CVA and CVSA we are students and families of character, both on and off campus. The respect we show for the other students in our community as we pass by their schools will be returned to our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Important Nov. Dates

Nov. 2nd – No School – Professional Development Day

Nov. 16th – Board of Directors Work Session Meeting at 6:00 pm; Board of Directors Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm in CVA Harvard Room

Nov. 23rd – 27th – Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

Nov. 30th – No School – Professional Development Day



RoboStallions News

RoboStallions, the CVA Lego Robotics Team, will be presenting their robot and Smart Move presentation on Friday, November 13th from 3:40 – 4:00 pm on the Secondary Campus in the multi-purpose room. This presentation is open to the public and is free of charge. Come support the team as they practice for their competition.

The RoboStallions will be competing on Saturday, November 14th in the regional competitions in Louisville. We are in need of volunteers to help at the competition; if you are interested in having too much fun with Legos, please let me know at trautweinp@cvamail.com.



Brooke Replogle (drawing at left) - "Henri Rousseau was an artist of the late 1800's. He worked on the border checking bags. He added himself into many of his paintings. We need to overlap our images, and make sure the things closer to us look larger, and the things further away look smaller."

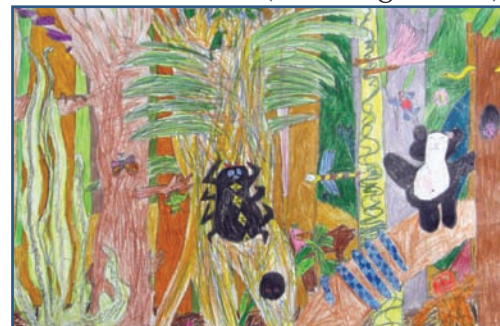
8th Grade Art Masterpieces

8th Grade worked on a rain forest landscape drawing project inspired by the work of French artist Henri Rousseau.



Marissa Zurfluh (drawing above) "Three important things about Henri Rousseau are: he didn't make much money from his paintings, he put himself in his paintings, and he made up crazy stories about his paintings."

Lauren Burke (drawing below)



Parent Registration for Infinite Campus

There will be an Infinite Campus sign up on Monday, November 16th from 3:30–7:30 at the CVA elementary school computer lab.

It is extremely important that parents sign up for Infinite Campus. This program will allow parents and students to view grades, get school updates, see attendance, get e-mail notifications, and adjust contact information.

We are able to offer this onetime registration for parents to sign up for Infinite Campus at CVA, please make arrangement to attend.

Infinite Campus is the online grading system for the St. Vrain School District. Students and parents can each have their own log-in and password. This system allows everyone to be aware of the students' grades at any time. To access the Infinite Campus portal go to: <https://ic.stvrain.k12.co.us/campus/portal/stvrain.jsp>

Grades will be posted, at the latest, 72 hours, or 3 school days, after the assignment is due. An "M" for missing, will be recorded when a student does not turn in an assignment on time. A "Blank" indicates work has been turned in and the grade is pending.

Parents and students should check grades weekly to ensure proper communication and grade submittal. Problems or concerns should be addressed with teacher without delay.

3rd Annual CVSA Ski Trip is Coming!

On Friday December, 18th, we will have the 3rd Annual CVSA Ski Trip to Eldora Mountain Resort. This is an optional trip for students but it is a great time to spend with friends, teachers, and family members, learning how to ski. All middle school and high school classes will be released for the day for the trip. All CVSA students and current CVA 5th graders are welcome on the trip. Families are encouraged to bring everyone and enjoy the day.



Volunteering opportunities:

Some students will need scholarships to offset the costs. If you are willing to contribute to the scholarship fund, you will gain volunteer credit for your donation.

Some students may need ski coats, pants, mittens, and hats. If you have these items to loan or to give, we will be happy to count this as volunteer time too.

We will be carpooling up to the mountain in order to save money. We will need approximately 12 volunteers to drive their cars to take kids to the ski mountain. This will count as volunteer hours for the whole day.

Price Guide:

Below is a price guide for students and adults. The price has increased because last year we were able to get the 2007 school prices and we will now be charged the current price. Students may purchase only what they need (lift ticket, rental, lesson). Students and parents may bring their own equipment and lessons are optional. Students may use their own ski passes.

Student Prices:	Lift Ticket	\$14
	Equipment Rental	\$14
	Student 2 hour lesson	\$18

Adult Prices :	Lift Ticket	\$29
	Ski Rental	\$21
	Snowboard Rental:	\$27
	Lesson	\$37

(First timer lesson package including lift ticket and equipment rental \$47)

Sign up has begun in the CVSA office and will close on Monday, December 7th; payment should be made at the time you sign up. Checks should be made payable to CVA.